

House Bill 424
February 13, 2007
Presented by Larry Peterman
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2.13.07
HB 424

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Larry Peterman, Chief of Field Operations for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP is opposed to HB 424 due to the impracticality and cost associated with implementing it. While it might reduce some conflicts between landowners and recreationists to have all legal access points clearly signed, there are at least thousands and probably tens of thousands of these sites. Under HB 424, FWP would not only have to identify and sign every location where a public road and a stream intersect, but every location where public land, private land and a stream intersect. The effort to identify these sites, provide signing and maintain the signing, would be considerable. We estimated it would take 7 FTE and cost over \$400,000 per year for four years to implement HB 424.

FWP does not believe the costs justify the benefits.